

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-8 and 16-23 are allowed. Claims 9-15 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claim 9 has been amended. This application continues to include claims 1-23.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-8 and 16-23.

Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 9-15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Premnath, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,283,576 B1).

Premnath, et al. discloses with respect to Fig. 3 at column 4, line 54-column 5, line 4, “the capping member 52 of the ventable capping and priming assembly 60 includes a venting path 80 that is formed from an outside surface of the capping member, into the priming recess or chamber 57 for venting the nozzle face of the ink jet printhead being capped, thereby relieving such nozzle face defect causing capping pressures during non-priming periods. The venting path comprises a tortuous labyrinthine passage through a body portion of the capping member 52 for maintaining moisture within the priming recess 56 as well as relieving the priming recess 56 and the nozzle face 29 of defect causing pressures during non-priming periods (that is periods when the nozzle face is capped and sealed but the vacuum device is not operating). The venting path 80 includes a venting hole or opening 86 that is located within the recess 56, (as well as within the enclosed priming gap 57), and that is peripherally spaced from the vacuum hole 88.” (Emphasis added).

Applicants’ claim 9, as amended, recites, “A printhead cap, comprising a base and a lip portion extending from said base, said lip portion defining an open interior region, said

printhead cap having a vent hole in fluidic communication with said open interior region, said base including a serpentine channel extending from said vent hole and *around an exterior of* said base.” (Emphasis added). Applicants have amended claim 9 to clarify the original term “around said base” as meaning that the serpentine channel extends from the vent hole and “around an exterior of said base” of the printhead cap, as shown for example, in Applicants’ Figs. 3 and 4. In contrast, Premnath, et al. discloses in the cross-section view of Fig. 3 a tortuous labyrinthine passage 80 extending through a body portion from the outside surface of the capping member to the priming recess or chamber 57, but passage 80 *does not* extend around an exterior of the base of the printhead cap.

Accordingly, claim 9 is believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 10, 11 and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 9.

Each of claims 10, 11, and 14 are believed allowable in view of their respective dependence from claim 9. In addition, claims 10, 11, and 14 are believed allowable in their own right.

For example, claim 14 recites, “The printhead cap of claim 9, wherein said serpentine channel spirals in a step-like manner around said base of said printhead cap in an outer sidewall portion of said base.” As clarified with respect to claim 9, the serpentine channel extends from the vent hole and *around an exterior of* the base of the printhead cap. As such, in claim 14 the serpentine channel spirals in a step-like manner around an exterior of the base of the printhead cap in an outer sidewall portion of the base. Such structure is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Premnath, et al.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 9, 10, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Premnath, et al.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Premnath, et al.

Claim 12 recites, "The printhead cap of claim 9, wherein said serpentine channel has a length to width ratio, or a length to depth ratio, of 30:1 or larger." Claims 13 recites, "The printhead cap of claim 9, wherein said serpentine channel has a length to width ratio, or a length to depth ratio, of about 120:1." Applicants believe claims 12 and 13 are allowable due to their respective dependence from claim 9.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 12 and 13 be withdrawn.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Premnath, et al. in view of Michael (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,053).

Claim 15 recites, "The printhead cap of claim 9, said vent hole being formed in said base, said base having an upwardly extending wall surrounding said vent hole." Claim 15 is believed allowable in view of its dependence from claim 15, since Michael does not resolve the deficiencies of Premnath, et al. with respect to claim 9.

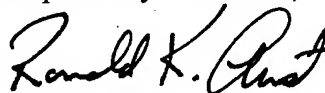
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: November 29, 2005.

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November 29, 2005

Date